Press release

Met Office jumps at the chance to help launch the Year of Science 2001

05 September 2001

As part of the launch for the Year of Science 2001, the Met Office at Bracknell, along with hundreds of other businesses and schools across the UK will be attempting to break world records on Friday morning (7 September 2001) in a 'Giant Jump'.

The 'Giant Jump' is a huge national science experiment to mark the launch of Science Year 2001. During the launch millions of people across the UK will jump up and down as part of the experiment. School children have designed and built earth movement monitoring equipment, to measure any effect their jumping may have.

With all the schools and registered organisations jumping together, they hope to set two world records and be entered into the Guinness Book of Records for the biggest science experiment in the world and the largest ever jump.

The Met Office hopes to have 100 people taking part, including its chief executive, Peter Ewins, directors, and its local primary school, Crown Wood. BBC weather forecaster Helen Willetts will be at the Bracknell offices to 'count down' the start of the jump at 11.00 a.m.

Jacquie Syvret, education development manager, said: "The Met Office has a well-developed educational programme and being a world renowned science based organisation, we are working to bring science alive for people of all ages.

We are delighted to support Science Year as it is bringing together schools and industry and hopefully encourages more students to train in a science profession."

Notes:

There will be good photo/broadcast opportunities at the event, which takes place at 11.00 a.m. on Friday 7 September at the Met Office, London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire.

Contact on the day will be Jacquie Syvret, education development manager.

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